

Dr M to reveal plan after meeting with OIC

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KOTA KINABALU, Sun. — Malaysia will make known its proposal in dealing with the Bosnian issue after discussing the matter with members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Malaysia would send a representative to meet the OIC members but the name of the envoy and the date for the proposed discussion have not yet been fixed, he said.

"Until we have discussed the matter, I cannot announce the proposal," Dr Mahathir said when responding to reporters questions at a press conference at the end of his one-day visit here.

Dr Mahathir was asked to elaborate on the statement issued by the Foreign Ministry yesterday. The Ministry said the joint programme on Bosnia initiated by Britain, France, Russia, Spain and the United States was totally unacceptable to Malaysia.

Malaysia, it said, strongly supported the rejection of the programme by the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It further stated that the programme was tantamount to rewarding the aggressor and condemning the Muslims to the ghettos and also mean accepting the policy of ethnic cleansing.

Dr Mahathir said that Malaysia generally did not agree with the move to reward the Serbs for the aggression just because the western powers could not face the danger in the war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"This is very unfair and inhuman. On one hand, they do want to help the people in Bosnia defend themselves, but on the other, they refuse to give the Muslims in Bosnia their rights to get weapons.

"This is like asking those with weapons to kill the unarmed and prevent the unarmed from getting weapons to defend themselves. This kind of thing has never happened in this world," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the western powers had been claiming that they had always given priority to human rights.

However, he said, they did not act accordingly when aggression was done by the Serbs on the Muslims in Bosnia.

He said while the Serbs had blatantly abused the people's human rights, the Bosnians were deprived of help.